

ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year 1948

No. 2 (North Craven) Division

COMPRISING:

Bowland Rural District.

Sedbergh Rural District.

Settle Rural District.

By D. P. LAMBERT, M.D., D.T.M. & H., D.P.H.
Divisional Medical Officer

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To the

Chairman and Members of the Bowland Rural District Council.

Chairman and Members of the Sedbergh Rural District Council.

Chairman and Members of the Settle Rural District Council.

County Medical Officer.

“Wisdom is a defence, and money is a defence : but the excellency
of knowledge is, that wisdom giveth life to them that have it.”

ECCLESIASTES VII, 12.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to lay before you my report on the health of No. 2 (North Craven) Division for the year ended 31st December, 1948.

Social Conditions.

No. 2 Division is the most completely Rural Division in the West Riding. Its area is 288,088 acres, and its estimated population is 23,420 ; expressed differently, there are 12 acres per person. Its principal industry is agriculture, mostly dairy farming, stock rearing, and the pasture of sheep ; though crops other than grass are grown from all but the most unfavourable soils. Except for the hill farms and the sheep walks, which are often extensive, the average size of a holding is from 100 to 150 acres. In the higher parts of the Division there is a good deal of marginal land. Quarrying is an important secondary industry, and a few other trades and manufactures are carried on, but the greater part of the population lives on and by the land.

This means that they enjoy the advantages of hard work in the open air, a better diet than many town-dwellers, the satisfaction of engaging in the most fundamental of all human occupations, and the daily enjoyment of natural beauty. On the debit side must be placed the legacy of many years of agricultural depression and of official neglect. During the bad years, houses and farm buildings became increasingly dilapidated, money and credit were hard to find, useful repairs were not executed, and new building was exceptional, or not of the best. Public health services considered—and rightly considered—normal in towns and cities were not extended to rural districts. In rural districts, with their scattered population, the cost of such services per head is much greater than it is in compact boroughs ; but although they cost more, and are more difficult to administer centrally, they are needed in the country just as much as in the towns.

Recently, there has been some legislative recognition of these difficulties, but the beneficial provisions of such Acts as the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944, and the Water Act, 1945, with the Ministry of Health's White Paper on “A National Water

Policy," have been largely nullified by war-time restrictions and by post-war shortages. The fact must be faced that to re-equip the countryside, to provide it with good houses and with adequate health services will be very costly. The most urgent public health need is an adequate, safe water supply. Without this, housing programmes are jeopardised, the provision of clean milk must be indefinitely postponed, and schemes of drainage and sewerage cannot be extended. The cost of an adequate safe water supply for the whole Division will probably be not less than £300,000.

Vital Statistics.

The Vital Statistics for the three constituent rural districts are shown in Appendix I. In interpreting these statistics it must be remembered that they are calculated on relatively small numbers, and that very few deaths can cause an apparently large increase in rate; for instance, Settle's high figure of 8.44 maternal deaths per 1,000 births represents one death, from self-administration of a drug.

Of the 11 deaths represented in the infantile mortality figures only one can fairly be held to have been preventable—a death from hæmolytic disease of the new-born. Adequate ante-natal care could probably have saved the life of this child, but the mother did not seek it. Prematurity and congenital abnormality account for the other cases, with the exception of one, for the death of which honesty compels me to say that I do not know the true cause. Of the premature children, two died soon after birth; the rest were treated in hospitals, but were unable to survive that difficult first month after birth.

Sanitary Conditions.

Statutory and routine inspections have been carried out by the Councils' Inspectors. Separate reports on each District are shown in Appendix II. For ease of comparison the same headings and the same sequence of headings have been used in each of the three reports. I should like to thank the Sanitary Inspectors for the willing help they have given me.

In comparing these reports it should be remembered that conditions differ in the three Districts. In Bowland, for example, there is a Sanitary Surveyor as well as a Sanitary Inspector; whereas in Sedbergh the Sanitary Inspector acts as Surveyor as well; and in Settle certain work is done by the Sanitary Inspector which in other areas is done by other officials.

Water Supplies.

Of all public health questions that of water supply is the one that causes me the gravest concern. In most cases the source of supply is a spring or springs; and in most cases the water is piped direct to the houses without purification. Contrary to popular belief, spring water is not invariably pure. Some springs are constantly,

and some are intermittently, contaminated. There is particular danger in summer-time, when many visitors walk and camp in the district. There is little control over their movements or behaviour ; and any one of them may be a carrier of typhoid fever, and may in a moment ignorantly but dangerously pollute a water supply that has been harmless for years. Springs that rise in limestone are particularly dangerous. Because of the nature of the rock, water may course in underground channels for a very long way, and remote pollutions can be carried along without undergoing the natural purification that takes place in other sub-soils. It is impracticable to purify every remote water source, but with rare exceptions the supply to any sizeable village can only be considered safe when the water is adequately chlorinated.

Bowland.

The existing water supplies to Gisburn, Paythorne, and the Gisburn Forest area are inadequate in quantity. The Grindleton supply is doubtfully sufficient and will probably be inadequate when the new school at Riversmead begins to draw from it. At Slaidburn and Bolton-by-Bowland additional supplies may be needed when proposed schemes of sewerage and drainage are carried out.

The water supplies to Bashall Eaves, Paythorne, Gisburn Forest, Gisburn, and the Stopper Lane houses at Rimington are of doubtful purity.

During the year the Council bought the Gisburn supply, and proposes to instal a purification plant.

Progress is being made with the large-scale water supply scheme at Waddington. This scheme, when complete—and it cannot be completed in a day, or at negligible cost—will represent a major advance.

Sedbergh.

Except for some remote farms and hamlets the water supply is adequate in quantity ; though at Millthrop, Hallbank, and Garsdale Head its distribution to the houses could be improved. At Sedbergh, water-works repairs are needed to the Ashbeck Dam.

The water supplies to Dent and to Garsdale Head are of doubtful purity.

During the year a purifications plant has been installed at Garsdale Head by British Railways.

Settle.

The water supply for Settle and Giggleswick is only just adequate in quantity, and the Langcliffe supply is too erratic to be dependable. The Ingleton supply is not dependable in dry weather. Supplies that are definitely inadequate are those of Thornton-in-Lonsdale and Westhouse ; Feizor, Lawkland, and Hellifield. The water supply of Helwith Bridge is dangerously polluted. The supply is doubtfully

pure at Horton-in-Ribblesdale, Thornton-in-Lonsdale and Westhouse, Malham and Malham Moor, Clapham, Lawkland and Ingleton. The Ingleton supply is chlorinated, but the chlorinator is not working well. The Ingleton mains may need re-laying soon.

During the year emergency chlorination was carried out at Helwith Bridge, and at Horton-in-Ribblesdale; and progress was made with a scheme to provide Helwith Bridge with a better supply. A scheme to supply Thornton-in-Lonsdale, Westhouse and Masongill, and to augment the Ingleton supply, is held up because of legal difficulties. Schemes to augment and improve the supplies of Langcliffe, and of Airton, Scosthrop and Hellifield, are also under consideration. A survey of the whole water resources of the District has been undertaken, and the outlines of a comprehensive water supply scheme are before the Council. The capital expenditure involved will be enormous; but the scheme is beneficial and far-seeing. The Councils' existing schemes fit in with the larger project.

An alarming infestation with caddis fly larvæ occurred in the early spring, in the small reservoir supplying part of Settle, the water of which is chlorinated but not filtered. The mains were flushed, and the reservoir drained, scraped and disinfected. A small filter was later obtained. Though not dangerous, the appearance of these "worms" in the local water supply was very disquieting. The close proximity to the same small reservoir of two middens is another unpleasant feature. This was partly put right earlier in the year, but later the same nuisance recurred. The Council is now taking stronger action to abate it.

Sewerage and Drainage.

The acceptable disposal of sewage must in some cases await the provision of a more adequate water supply. In others, finance is the obstacle; sewerage schemes cost money.

Bowland.

Slaidburn, West Bradford and Newton-in-Bowland are villages where sewerage projects are needed, and in the first two the need is urgent.

The Council is considering schemes for Slaidburn, but is waiting for reports on the adequacy of the water supply before deciding which scheme to adopt.

Watch is being kept on the sewage disposal fields at Bolton-by-Bowland and at Grindleton, where the River Ribble tends to eat into the sewage-fields, which are situated on the river banks.

Sedbergh.

Sewage disposal at Dent is unsatisfactory. The present sewage-field is too small, and has become "sewage sick." A complicating factor is the present acceptance of a very troublesome effluent from a cheese factory. When this factory is working the already inadequate disposal arrangements completely break down. Gawthrop and Hall-

bank are hamlets inadequately sewered. Millthrop also needs better provision, which could be made by connecting it with the Sedbergh sewage disposal system. Such a provision is desirable now, and would become imperative if houses were to be erected in that direction.

Watch is being kept on the efficiency of the Sedbergh Sewage Works. There are indications that at some reasonably foreseeable time provision will have to be made for the renewal of the percolating filter beds, and possibly for the extension of the works. Here again an industrial effluent, this time from a laundry, complicates the picture.

The Council has called on its Consulting Engineer for a scheme for an adequate sewage disposal system at Dent, and at the end of the year his report was awaited.

Settle.

The following villages are not provided with sewers: Horton-in-Ribblesdale, Thornton-in-Lonsdale, Westhouse, Otterburn, Kirkby Malham, Lawkland, Rathmell, Halton West, and the villages in Littondale. There is urgent need to provide sewerage at Horton-in-Ribblesdale.

The present sewage disposal fields at Hellifield are inadequate. The land is becoming "sewage-sick," and the river is in danger of pollution. The extension of the disposal works is needed badly. The repair of the broken sewer at Ingleton, where the River Greta is being polluted is also urgent.

During the year work to repair the Ingleton sewer, and to extend the Hellifield sewage works, has been considered and initiated, but the work is incomplete. A proposal to provide sewerage at Horton-in-Ribblesdale will be entertained when these other works have been completed.

Refuse Disposal.

In scattered rural areas the collection and disposal of refuse is both difficult and expensive. From some outlying farms and hamlets no collection is made, and refuse is disposed of on the spot by burning, burying, or weathering. Except at unreasonable cost no other course is possible.

Bowland.

All the chief centres of population are served, and during the year the area of collection was extended.

Sedbergh.

A new refuse collecting vehicle was ordered during the year, and negotiations were initiated for acquiring a new tipping site. When the vehicle is delivered and the new tip started, a very considerable improvement will be made, and an end will be put to the present unsatisfactory practice of using the Dent sewage disposal field as a refuse dump.

Settle.

Refuse is collected from all the larger villages, except the villages in Littondale, where, especially at Arncliffe, conditions are unsatisfactory. A suitable site for a central tip exists in the dale, but the owner refuses to sell or lease it to the Council. The Council is considering appropriate action.

Housing.

Of all sanitary deficiencies, housing defects and housing shortages are most intimately and acutely felt by the people. There are too few houses, and of those now in occupation too many are unfit for habitation. In 1897 Dr. Kaye, the then County Medical Officer, wrote as follows: "Throughout the Union many old houses can be found bearing dates of erection towards the end of the seventeenth and the beginning of the eighteenth century. These are generally hygienically defective, especially with regard to ventilation, but gradually these relics are disappearing, and giving place to superior buildings." Fifty-one years later his words still apply; two major wars have had to be paid for.

Bowland.

Conditions for a rural area are good, with the exception of conditions in Gisburn, where the standard of housing falls below that of the district as a whole. But more houses are urgently wanted. Plans are before the Council and progress is being made, but slowly.

Sedbergh.

Both in Sedbergh and in Dent there is a considerable amount of sub-standard property, and in Sedbergh many families are housed in temporary and rapidly deteriorating erections, and their prompt re-housing is a matter of the most urgent concern. In Sedbergh the difficulty of obtaining suitable housing sites has held up progress. The town is wedged between the steep fell side and the playing fields of Sedbergh School; on the fell side building is costly or impractical, and on the other side the School permits no encroachment. At Dent a site has been acquired at Dragon Croft, and progress is being made.

Settle.

In Upper Settle, Ingleton New Village, and parts of Bentham and Burton-in-Lonsdale clearance area procedure would, in normal times, be appropriate. Ingleton New Village is an eyesore as well as prejudicial to health, but in Upper Settle picturesque, and even historically interesting, buildings are concerned. However such fabrics may be admired, they are not fit to house human families, but until many more houses are built plans for reconditioning old property must lie on one side. Twenty-six houses were built during the year, and others are in process of completion. Many more are still required.

Hygiene of Food.

Milk.

An increasing number of farms is producing designated milk, and their owners are to be congratulated on doing so ; but the fact must be faced that as more and more herds become tubercle-free infected beasts are becoming correspondingly concentrated in the remaining ones. There is no reduction in the total quantity of tuberculous infection ; only an increasingly sharp division into the entirely free and the heavily infected. The danger has been well realised, and the effect of recently-proposed legislation will be awaited with hope.

Many producers are handicapped in their endeavours to provide a clean milk supply by the unsatisfactory design of their buildings, some of which are 200 years old and more. These were forcibly condemned by Dr. Kaye in 1897—not the first reference to the subject in the records—and by every medical officer since. It is sad that even one should remain in its primitive state. The majority of farmers and landowners have made improvements—sometimes great improvements—but in other cases not the means but the will to improve has been lacking. Again, it is remarkable how clean some farmers keep even unsatisfactory premises, and how ill-cared for others look, and smell.

Meat.

Meat inspections are regularly carried out at the Settle slaughterhouse ; the results, though unsatisfactory compared with pre-war standards, are very similar to those obtained in comparable rural districts in the West Riding.

Food Handling.

As with milk production, so with food handling : there is a big difference between the practice of the more enlightened proprietors of restaurants and cafés and that of their less responsible competitors. Once again, old and unsuitable premises, and the difficulty of getting proper equipment and appliances, have been obstacles in the way of those who would gladly do better ; but at times one has felt that difficulties had not been as seriously tackled as they could and should have been.

During the year the Ministry of Health issued leaflets and circulars to food-handling establishments. The response was very disappointing. Many proprietors seemed to feel that the propaganda was a slur on their personal cleanliness, and resented it. The facts that food and premises may look clean yet be dangerously infected, and that the avoidance of some dangers needs care of a kind not commonly practised in England in 1948, were not effectively conveyed. The effect of recently-proposed legislation will be watched with interest.

Infectious Diseases.

There has been no very unusual prevalence of infectious disease in the Division as a whole. Taking advantage of the isolated situation of many farms, hamlets and villages, epidemiological studies of measles and of whooping cough have been started. Such studies, from their nature, take a long time to complete and preliminary reports would be ill-founded, even misleading; in 10 or possibly in 20 years, it will be justifiable to report on this work now begun. Notifications of infectious disease have been fairly good, and the increase in the notification fee for measles and whooping cough from one shilling to half-a-crown brought an improvement in the notification of those diseases. But there is room for yet further improvement, and some cases could with advantage be notified more promptly. Delays of a fortnight and longer have not uncommonly occurred, though never where the more serious diseases have been concerned.

Bowland.

There was a limited but locally widespread outbreak of measles in Gisburn parish in October and November. Though highly infectious the disease was relatively mild, and there were no deaths.

Settle.

The measles epidemic that began in October, 1947, continued in the early part of 1948 and ended in April. By the last week in January the Primary Department of the Settle Church of England School had only three scholars left, and the school was closed for a fortnight. Neither this closure, nor the closure during the Christmas holidays, appeared to have any influence on the spread of the epidemic. The disease was of the same mild but infectious type as that experienced in Bowland. There were no deaths.

There was one case of acute anterior poliomyelitis at Langcliffe. The source of the disease could not be traced, and there were no secondary cases.

Sedbergh.

In November and December there were four cases of acute anterior poliomyelitis in Sedbergh School, but no spread from the school to the town occurred. The school was closed for the Christmas holidays a fortnight before the date formerly chosen. There was no case amongst scholars on holiday, or amongst their holiday contacts. During the term there was an unusual prevalence of ill-defined feverish attacks, often with gastrointestinal symptoms. It is probable that at least some of these attacks were due to the poliomyelitis virus, which was fairly widely disseminated amongst the scholars. Early in the outbreak the more strenuous forms of games and exercises were stopped, and this probably explains—at least in part—why the cases were clinically mild. From the beginning to the end of the outbreak the co-operation and help of the School Medical Officer were invaluable.

In October there was one case of polioencephalitis at Dent. The source of the infection could not be traced, and there were no secondary cases. There was no connection between this case and the school cases, not even of the most indirect kind.

Notified cases of the commoner infectious diseases have been singularly few.

Tuberculosis.

The figures for tuberculosis are slightly higher than for some years previously. I doubt whether there has been a true increase in the number of cases. Methods of diagnosis are more refined, and more active case-finding and contact examinations have been carried out. In this regard the skill and co-operation of the Tuberculosis Officer have been invaluable. The notification of non-pulmonary tuberculosis has been better than formerly. It used to be a recurring complaint in earlier Annual Reports that non-pulmonary cases were rarely notified except by death certificate. On the other hand, it must be admitted conditions favourable to the spread of tuberculosis do exist, particularly as regard housing; and the concentration of infection in non-designated milks should not be complacently regarded.

There is a Tuberculosis Dispensary at 54, Keighley Road, Skipton, open on Mondays and Fridays at 10 a.m. The Tuberculosis Officer also attends at Settle at Mr. Batty's, Market Square, on the third Wednesday of each month.

The Tuberculosis Officer arranges the admission to sanatoria or to hospitals of cases who require sanatorium or hospital treatment.

Venereal Diseases.

There is little venereal disease in this Division. During the year I have been informed of two cases, both under treatment.

A Consultant in Venereal Diseases is available at the West Riding County Council Health Department. Practitioners who require his opinion can be put in touch with him through the Divisional Health Office.

There are Venereal Disease Clinics at the Victoria Hospital, Keighley, and at the Victoria Hospital, Burnley, open as follows :

KEIGHLEY :

Men—Thursdays, 5—7.30 p.m.

Women and Children—Tuesdays, 5—7.30 p.m.

BURNLEY :

Men—Mondays and Thursdays, 5.30—6.30 p.m.

Women and Children—Mondays, 10—11 a.m.

Fridays, 11—12 a.m.

Fridays, 5.30—6.30 p.m.

The following practitioners undertake the treatment of Venereal Disease :

Dr. D. B. Hyslop, Duke Street, Settle. Tel.: Settle 2100.

Dr. D. Scott-Jackson, Briarwood, Sedbergh. Tel.: Sedbergh 18.

Ante-Natal Care.

Ante-natal care can be provided by arrangement at any of the Child Welfare Centres; but it has been found that since the coming of the National Health Service expectant mothers prefer to be attended at their own homes by their own doctors, and attendances at Centres have fallen away to nothing.

The services of consultants are available for any practitioners who require them, either at hospital out-patient departments, or, if a patient is unfit to travel, in the patient's own home. X-ray examinations are similarly available, though only at hospitals. The following hospitals serve the needs of this Division:

Whinfield Hospital, Skipton. Tel.: Skipton 244.

Victoria Hospital, Keighley. Tel.: Keighley 3708.

Royal Lancaster Infirmary, Lancaster. Tel.: Lancaster 1200.

Dental Treatment is arranged either by the County Dental Officers or through private dental practitioners.

An Ante-natal Hostel, with a limited number of beds, is open at Brighthouse for expectant mothers who require rest but not active medical treatment. Applications for admission are made through the Divisional Health Office.

Standard maternity outfits for use at confinement are provided free. Stocks are held by all midwives, and at the Divisional Health Office.

Midwifery.

In this Division the midwifery service is combined with the Home Nursing Service. Nurse-Midwives are available as follows:

Grindleton: The Sykes—three. Tel.: Chatburn 244.

Hellifield: 5, Park Avenue—one. Tel.: Hellifield 225.

Settle: 4, Ingfield Estate—two. Tel.: Settle 2155.

Ingleton: Hollybank—two. Tel.: Ingleton 54.

Bentham: Springroyde—one. Tel.: Bentham 291.

Sedbergh: 2, Havera—two. Tel.: Sedbergh 138.

Kettlewell: Manor View—one. Tel.: Kettlewell 250.

(For Littondale—by arrangement with Division 1,
Skipton)

Arrangements for admission to hospitals for confinement are made through the Divisional Health Office. The following hospitals serve the Division:

Skipton: Whinfield Hospital. Tel.: Skipton 244.

Skipton: Maternity Hospital. Tel.: Skipton 52.

Keighley: St. John's Hospital. Tel.: Keighley 3248.

Colne: Langroyd Maternity Home. Tel.: Colne 555.

It is essential to apply in good time; accommodation is short and cases many.

Home Helps.

For patients confined at home, Home Helps would gladly be provided if Home Helps could be found. Persistent endeavours to find any have been unsuccessful so far. In the few cases where an apparently suitable woman was reported to be willing to give temporary help the sending of a Form H.H.I. to the prospective recipient of help has been the end of the matter. In the country there is still a strong tradition of independence, and the flavour of Poor Law that clings to Form H.H.I. has been resented. There is also a strong country tradition of neighbourly help ; and this has, in many cases, been better received and more valuable than official assistance.

This is not to say that there is no need for Home Helps in the country. There is need—often urgent need—but up to now it has been impossible to meet it. Attempts are being made to find Home Helps, and will not be given up until enough have been obtained.

Post-Natal Care.

There is limited accommodation in the Yorkshire Home for Mothers and Babies at Harrogate for mothers suffering from the after effects of confinement, and for babies over three weeks and under seven months old. Applications for admission can be made through the Divisional Health Office.

Child Welfare.

There is one whole-time Health Visitor in Bowland Rural District. In Settle and in Sedbergh health visiting is done by the District Nurses. Attempts are being made to secure more Health Visitors for the Division.

Child Welfare Centres, with doctor and nurse in attendance, are open at the following places :

Bentham : Town Hall, on alternate Tuesdays from 2—4 p.m.

Ingleton : Literary Institute, on alternate Tuesdays from 2—4 p.m.

Settle : St. John's Methodist School, on alternate Thursdays from 2—4 p.m.

Waddington : St. Helen's School, on alternate Thursdays from 2—4 p.m.

Details of the work done are shown in Appendix 3.

A proposal to open a Child Welfare Clinic at Gisburn has been accepted and as soon as adequate sanitary provision has been made work can be started.

The possibility of using a Mobile Clinic has been explored. There seems to be no other way of meeting the needs of a scattered rural population. Small centres in all parts of the Division could be visited once a fortnight, or, if the neighbouring District of Skipton Rural took part in the scheme, once every three weeks. Public opinion, however, does not seem to favour the idea. From 29 parishes addressed on this subject, eight replies have been received, and of these only six are favourable.

Ultra-violet light treatment is available at the Whinfield Hospital, Skipton, for cases recommended by the Medical Officer. In necessitous cases free travel vouchers can be issued by the Divisional Health Office. By arrangement with Miss Douglas a certain number of cases can be treated in Settle.

There is limited accommodation for children up to five years of age in a Residential Nursery at Leadenhall Grange, Harrogate. Applications for admission are dealt with at the Divisional Health Office.

School Medical Service.

Regular inspections have been made of the schools in the Division. On the whole the health and nutrition of the children is good. Where necessary, specialist opinion and treatment can be made available. Because of the shortage of specialist staff, consultations cannot be arranged as regularly and as frequently as one would like, but it is hoped that one day this difficulty will be overcome too.

Immunisation against diphtheria is carried out at school, and supplements and reinforces the immunisation of pre-school children carried out by general practitioners and by Child Welfare Centres.

Details of the work done by the School Medical Service are shown in Appendix 4.

There is a great need for a day school and for a residential School for Educationally Sub-normal Children. A conveniently accessible child guidance centre is also required-

Vaccination and Immunisation.

Smallpox vaccine is provided free to general practitioners, and parents can have vaccination carried out by the doctor of their choice. Only about half the population of the Division is vaccinated. As long as smallpox remains absent from England such a position can be calmly viewed, but only so long.

Immunisation against diphtheria is carried out by general practitioners, and at the Child Welfare Clinics. A high percentage of the child population is protected. This should ensure that there will be no epidemic of diphtheria.

Home Nursing.

The Home Nursing Service is combined with the Midwifery Service. On 5th July, 1948, the organisations of the former District Associations were taken over by the County Council. A great debt of gratitude is owing to the old voluntary associations.

Ambulance Service.

Ambulances for ordinary cases are provided at the following centres :

Clitheroe. Tel. : Clitheroe 154.

Sedbergh. Tel. : Sedbergh 49 (Day) 67 (Night).

Settle. Tel. : Settle 2129.

An ambulance for infectious cases is provided at Harden Bridge Isolation Hospital (Tel., Clapham 209).

One day it is hoped to be able to control these separate branches of the Ambulance Service from one depot, when, with the aid of wireless telephony between depot and ambulances a telephone call to the depot will ensure the speediest possible arrival of an ambulance at the place of need.

Mental Health Service.

A Social Worker in Mental Health is shared between this Division and No. 1 (Skipton) Division. Routine inspections of mental defectives are carried out. In addition, touch is kept with Mental Hospitals to which patients are sent and from which they are discharged. There is great need for additional provision of institutional care for mental defectives, especially for those most heavily afflicted. A list of the numbers and grades of mental defectives in this area is shown in Appendix 5.

Health Education.

Apart from the constant work of the health visitors and nurses, and the work done at the Child Welfare Centres, no special effort has been made in Health Education except in Bowland, where a "Health Week" was held in February. Until a more adequate staff of health visitors is available it is felt that extensions of this work would be inadvisable. Unless the interest roused by special displays can be followed up and maintained their value is fleeting, and very doubtfully worth the cost of arranging them.

I am, Sirs,

Your obedient Servant,

D. P. LAMBERT.

Appendix I.

VITAL STATISTICS, 1948

	Estimated Population.	Births.		Deaths.		Deaths Under One Year.		Still Births.	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Bowland ...	5,070	43	35	25	29	1	2	—	—
Sedbergh ...	4,060	32	23	20	24	—	1	1	—
Settle	14,290	127	100	85	89	4	3	4	6
Total ...	23,420	202	158	130	142	5	6	5	6

	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Cancer Death Rate.	Heart and Circulatory Death Rate.	Infectious Death Rate.	Respiratory Death Rate.	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Other Tuberculosis.	Maternal Mortality.	Infantile Mortality.
BOWLAND ...	15·4	10·7	1·97	3·16	—	0·39	0·39	—	—	38
SEDBERGH ...	13·5	10·8	1·23	3·94	0·25	0·49	0·25	—	—	18
SETTLE	15·9	12·2	1·61	4·76	0·14	0·56	0·42	0·07	8·44	31
Whole Division	15·4	11·6	1·62	4·27	0·13	0·51	0·38	0·04	5·39	31

Appendix II.

Sanitary Inspectors' Reports.

Bowland Rural District.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my annual report for the year 1948.

Notices Served.

Statutory Notices served	...	1
Statutory Notices complied with	2	(outstanding from 1947).
Informal Notices served	...	27
Informal Notices complied with	24	

Notifiable Diseases.

21 visits were made in connection with notifiable diseases, and 18 rooms were disinfected.

Public Health Nuisances.

52 inspections were carried out for nuisances under the Public Health Act, and 22 nuisances were abated.

No statutory notices were served.

Offensive Trades.

Gut scraping has been carried on by the C.W.S. at their Withgill premises, and various alterations have been carried out to keep the premises in a satisfactory condition. 32 inspections were made.

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

There are a total of 38 wood huts and 5 caravans situated in various parishes of the area. These premises are used at weekends, and for short periods in the summer months by people coming from the nearby towns. 43 inspections were carried out, and the premises were maintained in a satisfactory condition. There would appear to be no increase in the number of these dwellings.

There are no scheduled camping sites in the area, but one organisation established a camp at Forest Becks for a month in the summer.

Rivers and Streams.

No serious pollution of rivers and streams was detected, and no complaints were received from the West Riding Rivers Board.

Bakehouses.

There are 3 bakehouses in the area which upon inspection were always found to be in a clean condition.

Shop Act, 1934.

It was not necessary to take any action in connection with light, ventilation and sanitary conveniences.

Common Lodging Houses, Canal Boats and Knackers Yards.

There are none of the above in the district.

Water Supplies.

All water supplies for the chief centres of community have been regularly inspected, and the following samples have been taken for bacteriological examination :

			Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.
Bashall Eaves, Private Supply	...	...	2	2
Bolton by Bowland, Private Supply	...	...	3	1
Dunsop Bridge, Private Supply	...	...	2	—
Gisburn Private Supply	...	...	5	6
Grindleton, Council Supply	...	...	2	1
Holden Private Supply	...	...	2	—
Horton, Private Supply	...	...	2	—
Mitton, Private Supply	...	...	2	—
Newton, Council Supply	...	...	2	—
Rimington, Council Supply	...	...	3	—
Sawley, Council Supply	...	...	1	—
Slaidburn, Private Supply	...	...	2	—
Tosside, Council Supply	...	...	2	—
Waddington, Private Supply	...	...	2	—
West Bradford, Private Supply	...	...	2	2
West Bradford, Tagglesmire Private Supply	...	...	2	1
Individual Private Supplies	...	...	12	9
			—	—
		Total	48	22

In view of the analyst's reports on the Gisburn supply, this cannot be considered satisfactory, but as the Council took over this supply towards the end of the year, consideration should be given to adequate treatment.

A wood bungalow situated near a stream which runs through the spring area of the Waddington water supply was occupied during the early part of the year. This bungalow has no proper drainage facilities, and as reported on two occasions to the Public Health Committee, I consider it to be a potential source of danger to the supply.

During the year sampling of the Stopper Lane private supply at Rimington was commenced, but consecutive unsatisfactory samples as required by the Ministry of Health were not obtained, and the question of an alternative supply to the houses was therefore deferred.

Complaints were received from the residents in Mitton regarding the condition of water drawn at various times from the private main, but it was ascertained that if periodical flushing of the main was carried out the supply was kept reasonably satisfactory.

Temporary slight pollution of the water supplied by the Clitheroe Corporation was detected by analysis during one month of the year,

but after taking the matter up with the Borough Surveyor the source of the pollution was detected and prevented.

Owing to the unsatisfactory water used by a camp of children at Forest Becks it was considered advisable by the Medical Officer to supply the camp with pure water, and this was carried out.

Towards the end of the year the Surveyor and myself met the agent of the private reservoir at Bashall Eaves regarding the possible sources of pollution when it was agreed by the agent that the Estate would fence in a feeder stream for a certain length, and also carry out works to drains entering the reservoir.

Housing, Drainage and Closet Accommodation.

322 inspections were made at all classes of dwelling houses.

Repairs and alterations were carried out at 47 houses and one cottage was reconstructed.

1 Statutory notice was served under the Housing Act, and it was necessary for the Council to carry out work themselves in connection with one statutory notice served last year.

Drainage was repaired at 9 houses and choked drains were at 12 houses.

Three new septic tanks were constructed. One pail closet was abolished, and 3 additional water closets provided.

It is gratifying to note a number of owners of farm houses now providing modern amenities for the tenants, but it is also apparent that a great many owners of cottage property are finding it exceedingly hard to carry out repairs with the low rents received.

Cowsheds, Dairies and Milk Supply:

Milk is produced for wholesale distribution at 385 farms in the area and during the year 9 applications were received for registration as wholesale producers.

42 retail traders are registered, but in a number of cases retailing is only being carried out to neighbours.

4 new cowsheds and 14 new dairies have been erected. 14 cowsheds have been reconstructed and various repairs have been carried out at 23 cowsheds.

Speaking generally the standard of cowsheds and the methods of production in the area are satisfactory.

Practically all milk produced in the area goes to collecting depots in adjacent districts, and in four instances it was necessary to investigate complaints that the milk was not up to the required standard.

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations.

During the year 5 licences were granted by the County Council for the production of "Tuberculin Tested" Milk and 4 licences for the production of "Accredited" milk. One "Accredited" milk licence was revoked.

The total number of licences in force in the area is 97 viz : 47 "Tuberculin Tested" and 50 "Accredited." These licences are for the wholesale production of milk and 12 additional licences are also in force for bottling at the place of production. 2 dealers licences were issued by the District Council.

There are no licences in force for the bottling of designated milk other than at the place of production, and there are no pasteurising plants in the district.

I have received copies of the examinations of designated milks from the County Laboratory which shows that out of 124 samples taken 109 satisfied the prescribed tests.

Food Supplies, Slaughter-houses and Meat.

Slaughtering was only permitted by the Ministry of Food at one slaughter-house with the exception of casualties. 88 visits were made and 193 visits to Butcher's Shops.

Meat is sent into the district from Skipton and Clitheroe Abattoirs.

The number of carcasses including offals examined were :

Beef 329 quarters. Sheep 466. Pigs 647.

Total weight of meat surrendered as unfit for human consumption : 15½ cwt.

Food Production Premises.

117 visits were made to food production premises, which were maintained in a satisfactory and clean condition.

Two premises are registered under the Food and Drugs Act for the sale of Ice Cream, and eleven premises are registered for the preparation of preserved foods.

The inspection of food at shops and food production premises revealed that 2½ cwt. sausages and 88 lbs. tinned meat was unfit and was voluntarily surrendered and destroyed.

Factories Act.

There are 31 registered premises, and no complaints have been received from H.M. Inspector of Factories. 25 inspections have been made.

Destruction of Rats.

A part-time rat catcher has been regularly employed on all properties owned by the Council.

In concluding my report I desire to express to the Council my appreciation for the unfailing consideration and support that they have extended to me in the execution of my various duties.

Yours obediently.

E. J. BANNER, A.R., San. I., A.N.I.S.E.

Sedbergh Rural District.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1948.

Notices Served.

Informal : Served	...	...	...	25
Complied with	...	...	...	24
Formal : Served	...	...	...	1
Complied with	...	...	...	1

Notifiable Diseases.

Disinfections—Scarlet Fever	...	2
Polioencephalitis	...	1
Poliomyelitis	...	4 (large scale)

Public Health Nuisances.

Thirty-six inspections were carried out; no statutory notices were served, informal action being adequate.

Offensive Trades.

None in the District.

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

Because of the wet summer there were fewer camps than usual.

Rivers and Streams.

Two complaints of tipping refuse into streams were made. Notice boards were erected at the points in question on behalf of the Rivers Board. No serious pollution of any river or stream exists in this District.

Bakehouses, Shops Act 1934, Common Lodging-houses, Canal Boats, Knackers' Yards.

Nil report.

Water Supplies.

The following samples have been taken for analysis, with the following results :

Bacteriological Analysis :

					Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.
Dent	...	...	...	...	—	2
Lea Gate	...	...	...	...	—	1
Sedbergh	...	...	...	...	3	7
Private sources	...	...	...	...	5	3
Chemical Analysis :						
Sedbergh	...	...	...	...	3	—
Private sources	...	...	...	...	1	—

From the above it will be noted that out of a total of 13 samples taken from public supplies three only were satisfactory. As the Sedbergh supply is chlorinated and filtered, the suppliers of the plant were called in and, after making tests, adjusted the dosage of chlorine so as to increase it considerably. The previous dosage of chlorine had been inadequate.

In accordance with the decision of the Council, all milk-producing farms supplied from the Sedbergh town supply have been metered or are earmarked to be metered, with a view to preventing waste. The West Riding Laundry, Station Road, Sedbergh, and the Auction Mart have also been metered. In all, 11 meters are in use. Under Section 129, Public Health Act, 1936, it is suggested that metering be extended to garages and hotels.

The total number of inspections made in connection with water supplies, 103.

Housing, Drainage and Closet Accommodation.

Civil building licensing is carried out by this authority on behalf of the Ministry of Works. The following is an abstract of licences issued in 1948 :

Housing, including Repairs	...	53
Other than Housing	... ..	22
W.B.A. Permits	... ..	34

During the year five new water closets were provided.

Cowsheds, Dairies and Milk Supply.

Not originally intended for the production of milk, a considerable proportion of the byres in this area are below standard. Improvements are being gradually effected as conditions permit.

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations.

During the year the County Council has issued four licences for the production of tuberculin-tested milk, and one for accredited milk ; one licence has been withdrawn.

Food Supplies, Slaughter-houses and Meat.

All meat for this District is killed at, and supplied from, Kendal.

Factories Act, 1939.

Routine inspections have been made under the above Act, and action was taken in one instance to provide a water closet in premises in Howgill Lane, Sedbergh. Owing to the transfer of ownership of these premises, completion of the work has been delayed.

Destruction of Rats.

There being virtually no infestation by rats in this District, action on only one occasion has been necessary. Routine disinfestation of three refuse tips by the County Agricultural Executive Committee (under contract) has been entirely satisfactory.

Scavenging and Cleansing.

The old system of refuse removal by contract remained in force till the end of the year.

A new seven-cubic-feet Karrier Bantam vehicle was delivered on 26th November, 1948. It will be put into operation in the new year, when it is proposed to extend collection to Dent, to Garsdale, and possibly to Cautley. The contract system will then cease.

It has been necessary to find a new tip at Sedbergh, and a central tip for the entire area has been earmarked at Langstone Quarry.

Total number of inspections made in connection with scavenging, 104. As a result of notices served, 43 refuse bins have been provided.

Yours obediently,

F. J. LAWSON, M.S.I.A.

Settle Rural District.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my annual report for the year 1948.

Notices Served.

Formal : Served	...	...	...	11
Complied with	...	...	...	6
Informal : Served	...	...	...	107
Complied with	...	...	...	59

Notifiable Diseases.

Thirty visits were made.

		Removed to Hospital.	Disinfected.
Scarlet Fever	...	10	10
Pneumonia	...	2	1
Cer. Sp. Fever	...	2	—
Diphtheria	...	2	2
Miscellaneous	...	—	7

Nuisances.

Visits in connection with nuisances	...	...	112
Nuisances found	...	...	60
Informal notices served	...	...	60
Informal notices complied with	...	...	55
Formal notices served	...	...	5
Formal notices complied with	...	...	2

Offensive Trades.

There was only one offensive trade in the District, viz., a fell-monger at Ingleton. Six visits were made and the premises found to be well kept. Section 112 of the Public Health Act, 1875, was not in force in the District prior to the operation of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

Twelve visits were made during the year. This class of dwelling is mostly seasonal and has shown a great increase during recent years. Most persons, however, using this type of dwelling only stayed in the District for a few days and then moved on, so control was difficult, but in the course of various visits no nuisance was found.

Rivers and Streams.

Two visits were made. One case of pollution of a stream was investigated and found to be caused by nearby residents depositing refuse in the stream. The nuisance was remedied following informal action.

Bakehouses.

Twenty-two visits were made. There were 13 bakehouses in the District, including one "underground." All were well kept.

Shops Act, 1934.

Inspections under this Act were made during visits in connection with food-preparing premises.

Common Lodging-houses, Canal Boats and Knackers' Yard.

None in the District.

Water Supplies.

Seventy-five visits were made in connection with public and private water supplies.

The Council distributes water in 12 townships, and in two townships, viz., Long Preston and Burton-in-Lonsdale, it is distributed by private companies. The supplies to the remainder of the District are administered by various property owners.

During the year, on the recommendation of the Ministry of Health, the Council engaged J. H. Haiste, Esq., M.I.C.E., M.I.Mec.E., M.I.W.E., M.Cons.E., Chartered Civil Engineer, of Leeds, to prepare a preliminary report covering the whole of the water supplies in the District. The report was received late in the year, and at the year-end was awaiting consideration.

HELWITH BRIDGE SUPPLY.—The Ministry of Health held an inquiry into an application for a loan, but sanction was still awaited at the year-end.

LANGCLIFFE SUPPLY.—A scheme to augment the present supply was approved in principle.

WESTHOUSE AND MASONGILL SUPPLIES.—Agreement with the riparian owners for taking over the Masongill Cut supply had not been reached at the year-end.

Water samples collection during the year.

				Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.
Samples :					
Private supplies	...	...	...	20	13
Council's supplies	...	...	...	10	8

Chlorination was being efficiently carried out to the Settle and Giggleswick, High Bentham, and Ingleton supplies, while rough chlorination was being done to the Hellifield, Helwith Bridge and Horton-in-Ribblesdale supplies.

Housing, Drainage, and Closet Accommodation.

During the year 658 visits were made.

Thirty new houses were erected in the District as follows :

					By Council	By Private Enterprise.
Bentham	...	...	...	...	10	6
Giggleswick	...	...	...	...	—	8
Long Preston	...	...	...	...	4	—
Malham	...	...	...	...	2	—
					—	—
					16	14
					==	==

One house in Settle was found to be incapable of repair at reasonable expense, and after discussion with and attendance before the Council, the owner agreed to close the house for human occupation when vacated.

In connection with the Rural Housing Survey, 368 houses were inspected, but at the year-end the survey was not complete.

Closet accommodation: 9 additional water closets were provided during the year.

Cowshed, Dairies and Milk Supply.

Visits	...	...	...	...	...	320
Cowkeepers	...	...	...	...	...	639
Wholesale Producers			...	...	...	394
Retailers	...	...	...	...	...	88
Numer of Accredited Producers				...	...	44
Number of T.T. Producers	...			...	...	35

***Milk Samples taken for Methylene Blue Test :**

Satisfactory	...	...	80
Unsatisfactory	...	...	19

***Milk Samples taken for Coliform Test :**

Satisfactory	...	...	6
Unsatisfactory	3

Milk Samples taken for Biological Examination :

Satisfactory	21
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*These figures include samples taken by the County Council's officials.

Food Supplies, Slaughter-houses, and Meat.

Two hundred and sixteen visits were paid to premises during the year. The Ministry of Food have a central slaughter-house at Settle, where slaughtering of animals for food is carried out. Three additional slaughterhouse licences were granted to premises in the District, chiefly for the slaughter of "cottagers' " pigs. During the year the following animals were slaughtered and inspected in the Central Slaughter-house ;

Steers and Heifers	...	...	...	496
Cows	...	...	...	262
Bulls	...	...	...	13
Sheep	...	...	...	1,948
Calves	...	...	...	27
Pigs	...	...	...	19
Total				2,765

Food condemned during the year :

Meat	...	14 tons 17 cwt. 3 qr.
Fish	...	1 cwt. 2 qr.
Other Foods	...	11 cwt. 3 qr.

Food Production Premises.

Eighty-nine visits were made and no special action was required.

Ice Cream Premises	...	16 on register.
Bakehouses	...	13 „

Factories Act.

Nine visits were made to factories, chiefly in connection with closet accommodation, and one informal notice was served.

Rats and Mice Destruction.

During the year the Council entered into a contract with the W.R.C.A.E.C. for the destruction of rats on the Council's tips, sewerage systems, sewage disposal works, and private premises, as required under the contract. Part of the work will qualify for grant from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in accordance with their arrangements. This system appears to work satisfactorily.

Building Licences.

In the early part of the year the Senior Sanitary Inspector was appointed officer responsible for the issuing of building licences in the District. This work had previously been done by the Council's Engineer.

Up to the year end 151 licences were issued and the additional clerical work and visits involved was not inconsiderable.

Scavenging and Salvage.

Public scavenging was in operation throughout the District with the exception of Littondale, and it is hoped to operate there early in the new year. Hellifield and Austwick scavenging was carried out by contract as before, and the remainder of the District was done by direct labour. Three motor vehicles are fully employed and refuse is disposed of by tipping at various tips throughout the District. During the year, 1,497 loads were tipped by these vehicles. In addition to scavenging, a monthly collection of salvage was made, and

during the year 81 tons 13 cwt. of salvaged materials were sold, the value of which was £594. This is no doubt a valuable contribution to the rate fund, but on occasions of breakdown of transport, etc., the collection of salvage was apt to interfere with the collection of refuse. All things considered, however, the scheme in operation seems to work fairly well.

General.

On several occasions during the year, delays were experienced in the carrying out of works ordered to be done by formal or informal notice. Generally speaking, owners were willing to carry out the Council's requirements, but it seemed that the building labour force in the District was insufficient to keep pace with the requirements. No doubt this was due to the accumulation of work during the war years, but it is hoped that such difficulties will soon be overcome.

Yours obediently,

F. FOXCROFT, M.S.I.A.,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

APPENDIX III.

ATTENDANCE AT CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.

Centre.	Expectant Mothers.	Children Under 1 Year.	Children 2—5 Years.
BENTHAM ...	20	518	337
INGLETON ...	—	349	435
SETTLE ...	18	304	291
WADDINGTON ...	—	154	300
Total ...	38	1325	1363

APPENDIX IV.

RESULTS OF SCHOOL INSPECTIONS.

DEFECT OR DISEASE.	Periodical Inspections.		Special Inspections.	
	Requiring Treatment.	Requiring Observation.	Requiring Treatment.	Requiring Observation.
SKIN ...	25	1	8	1
EYES : (a) Vision ...	75	9	75	9
(b) Squint ...	13	2	10	—
(c) Other ...	2	1	7	1
EARS : (a) Hearing ...	2	1	1	—
(b) Otitis media ...	9	5	3	2
(c) Other ...	1	3	—	—
NOSE or THROAT ...	72	43	25	7
SPEECH ...	4	5	9	1
CERVICAL GLANDS ...	9	10	3	1
HEART and CIRCULATION ...	14	22	11	7
LUNGS ...	13	4	13	3
DEVELOPMENTAL :				
(a) Hernia ...	2	3	—	—
(b) Other ...	5	1	2	—
ORTHOPAEDIC :				
(a) Posture ...	39	2	13	—
(b) Flat Foot ...	11	1	—	—
(c) Other ...	29	9	15	3
NERVOUS SYSTEM :				
(a) Epilepsy ...	1	—	4	2
(b) Other ...	—	1	1	2
PSYCHOLOGICAL :				
(a) Development ...	3	3	5	—
(b) Stability ...	4	4	4	—
OTHER ...	51	5	21	2

In 8,518 inspections, 73 pupils were found infested with vermin.

Appendix V.**List of Mental Defectives as at 31st December, 1948.**

		Females.	Males.
Under Statutory Supervision	...	13	9
Under Voluntary Supervision	...	1	—
Under Guardianship	... ..	2	—
		—	—
		16	9
		—	—

Severity of Defect.

Cot Cases	...	...	...	...	1	1
Blind	...	...	...	...	1	—
Epileptic	...	...	...	...	4	—
Imbecile	...	...	...	...	3	2
Feeble Minded	...	...	...	...	5	3
With associated Physical Defect	...	...	...	...	2	3
					—	—
					16	9
					—	—

Appendix VI.**List of Staff.**

Divisional Medical Officer	...	D. P. LAMBERT, M.D., D.T.M. &H., D.P.H. (from 11th July, 1948)	
Medical Officer of Health, Bowland	...	J. H. FAIRWEATHER, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H. (to 30th September, 1948)	
Medical Officer of Health, Sedbergh and Settle	...	W. SCATTERTY, M.A., M.D., D.P.H. (to 31st January, 1948)	
Assistant County Medical Officer..	...	J. C. GOLDTHORPE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.	
Social Worker in Mental Health..	...	H. WALLACE.	
Sanitary Inspectors : Bowland	...	E. J. BANNER, A.R. San. I., A.N.I S.E.	
	Sedbergh	...	F. J. LAWSON, M.S.I.A.
	Settle	...	F. FOXCROFT, M.S.I.A., Senior Sanitary Inspector. H. FIRTH, M.S.I.A. H. COCKSHUTT, M.S.I.A. (until 31st October, 1949)
Health Visitor : Bowland	...	H. HAWORTH, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.	

